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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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July 18, 1996

UM APPOINTS RESEARCH VICE PRESIDENT

MISSOULA —

A biologist and pioneer in the field of insect endocrinology is The University of Montana—Missoula's new vice president for research and development, UM President George Dennison announced today.

Walter E. Bollenbacher, currently associate vice chancellor for research development at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will assume his UM post Aug. 15. A 30-member committee spent several months screening 180 applicants and nominees for the \$99,000 position.

"I think we did all we could possibly do to make certain that we make the correct decision at this critical time in the University's history," Dennison said. "Bollenbacher has good experience at an institution that is a very distinguished one and somewhat like The University of Montana. In his position there he's been working with faculty across the entire campus and has done a great job with them."

Dennison said one thing that made Bollenbacher stand out from the other candidates was his arranging to meet with UM's creative writing faculty to emphasize his desire to serve the entire campus.

"I see the value of the arts and humanities," Bollenbacher said. "There are nuances to the arts that influence what I do as a scientist. I can't escape from the importance of that."

Bollenbacher, who has garnered millions of dollars for his own research, said he's made

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the scientific breakthrough he's sought for the past 20 years and is ready to take the next step in his career.

"My job is to serve the University and the people of Montana, not to serve my research," he said. "Right now that is a full-time job."

At North Carolina Bollenbacher teaches biology, directs the Program for Minority Advancement in the Biomolecular Sciences and coordinates the Hoechst Celanese Corp./UNC-Chapel Hill Research Partnership in addition to his duties as vice chancellor for research development.

"Amazed and thrilled" at the opportunity the UM position offers, Bollenbacher says his goal at UM is to help "change the organizational design that prevents opportunities from being realized. We need to figure out how to do what we want to do and then do it."

A California native, Bollenbacher has a bachelor's degree in biology from California State University at Northridge and a doctorate from the University of California at Los Angeles. Joining him in his move to Missoula will be his wife, Polly Wheless, a health practitioner.

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Local, dailies and Chapel Hill paper

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